(a) whether the Planning Commission has withheld its approval to the Petroleum Ministry's proposals to set up three more refineries of 6 million tonnes per annum capacity, each in Eastern, Central and Western regions ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The Eighth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised.

Prices fixed by oil companies of OPEC countries

3645. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the prices India has been paying to different oil companies of OPEC countries during the last five years ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Director Marketing and Chairman have offered higher prices to the same oil companies than that by other foreign purchasers ;and

(c) if so, what are the details of differences in price alongwith the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Indian oil Corporation has been entering into term contracts for import of Crude oil and petroleum product from National Oil Companies of major oil producing countries, generally on an yearly basis. Pricing formulae for various term contracts are different from each other and are market related. Supplies are made under each contract in accordance with terms of agreements.

Gas flaring

3646. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an American Company has offered to prevent flaring of the Gas at Bombay High and to take it to the South through pipeline ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

External support to killers of Rajiv Gandhi

3647. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the killers of former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, received direct support from Tamils based in Malayasia or Singapore ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi was part of international conspiracy; and;

(c) if so, whether Government have interrogated or have taken into custody the persons residing abroad who are involved in assassination case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.